

PART III

MORTICIANS and CEMETERIES

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REGULATIONS PERTINENT TO FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND CEMETERY AUTHORITIES

The following regulations have been excerpted from the *California Health and Safety Code* available at: www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=hsc&codebody=&hits=20

From Chapter 5 – Embalming and Transportation (*Health and Safety Codes 7300-7304, 7355*)

7300. No person shall embalm the body of any person who has died from an unknown cause, except with the permission of the coroner.

7301. No embalmer shall embalm a dead human body when he has information reasonably indicating crime in connection with the death until permission of the coroner has been obtained.

7302. Every funeral director and embalmer shall immediately report to the local health officer every contagious case on which the funeral director or embalmer may be called.

7303. No embalmer shall embalm a dead human body when he has information reasonably indicating the death has occurred while the deceased was driving or riding in a motor vehicle, or as a result of the deceased being struck by a motor vehicle, until permission of the coroner, his appointed deputy coroner, or a judge in the county, if there is no coroner, has been obtained.

7304. No embalmer shall embalm a dead body without obtaining written or oral permission of a person who has the right to control the disposition of the remains pursuant to Section 7100, except that prior authorization is not required if embalming is necessary in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations, or is necessary to avoid irreparable deterioration of the dead body, in which case, a good faith effort shall be made to obtain permission.

7355. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the bodies of persons who have died from any cause shall not be received for transportation by a common carrier unless the body has been embalmed and prepared by a licensed embalmer and placed in a sound casket and enclosed in a transportation case. (b) A dead body, which cannot be embalmed or is in a state of decomposition, shall be received for transportation by a common carrier if the body is placed in an airtight metal casket enclosed in a strong transportation case or in a sound casket enclosed in an airtight metal or metal-lined transportation case.

From Chapter 8 – Permits for Disposition of Human Remains (*Health and Safety Codes 103050-103105*)

103050. No person shall dispose of human remains unless (a) there has been obtained and filed with a local registrar a death certificate, as provided in Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 102775) of this part, and (b) there has been obtained from a local registrar a permit for disposition.

103055. (a) If the certificate of death is properly executed and complete, the local registrar of births and deaths shall issue a permit for disposition, that in all cases, shall specify any one of the following: (1) The name of the cemetery where the remains shall be interred. (2) Burial at sea as provided in Section 7117. (3) The address or description of the place where remains shall be buried or scattered. (4) The address of the location where the cremated remains will be kept, as provided in Section 7054.6, under the conditions the state registrar may approve, including, but not limited to, conditions in keeping with public sensibilities, applicable laws, and reasonable assurances that the disposition will be carried out in accordance with the prescribed conditions and will not constitute a private or public nuisance. (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this part relative to issuance of a permit for disposition, whenever the death occurred from a disease declared by the state department to be infectious, contagious, or communicable and dangerous to the public health, no permit for the disposition of the body shall be issued by the local registrar, except under those conditions as may be prescribed by the state department and local health officers.

103060. A permit for disposition for the purpose of removing cremated remains from the place of cremation or interment shall include a description of the final place of disposition sufficient to identify the place and shall be issued by the local registrar to the person having the right to control the disposition of the remains



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under Section 7100 upon the application of that person. A permit for disposition shall be issued under this section only upon the signed acknowledgement by the person making application that trespass and nuisance laws apply to the disposition and that the permit gives no right of unrestricted access to property not owned by the person for the purpose of disposing of the remains. The person to whom the permit for disposition was issued shall sign the permit, endorse upon it the date of final disposition and, within 10 days, return the first copy of the permit so endorsed to the local registrar of the district in which the disposition took place. The third copy of the permit shall be returned to the office of issuance. After 1 year the local registrar may destroy any original or duplicate permit retained by him or her pursuant to this section.

103065. (a) Upon the presentation of a certificate of death properly executed and completed in accordance with the policies and procedures of the county coroner in which the death occurred that are not in conflict with state law, the permit for disposition required by Sections 103050, 103055, and 103060 shall be issued by any local registrar pursuant to this section. The local registrar issuing the permit for disposition pursuant to this section shall promptly forward the death certificate and a duplicate of the permit for disposition to the local registrar of the district in which death occurred or the body was found. (b) The applicant for a permit under this section shall pay a fee of six dollars (\$6) to the issuing registrar. Thirty percent of the fee shall be transferred by the issuing registrar to the local registrar of the county where the death occurred and 40 percent shall be transferred to the State Registrar for the administration of this section. (c) Applicants for a permit for disposition pursuant to this section shall not be subject to Section 103675.

103070. The body of any person whose death occurs in this state, or whose body is found in the state, or that is brought in from outside the state, shall not be temporarily held pending disposition more than eight calendar days after death, unless a permit for disposition is issued by the local registrar of the registration district in which the death occurred or the body was found.

103075. The permit shall accompany the body to its destination, where, if within this state, it shall be delivered to the person in charge of the place of interment.

103080. The person in charge of the place of interment, or the funeral director or person acting as funeral director if no person is in charge, shall sign the permit, endorse upon it the date of interment or cremation, and, within 10 days, return the first copy of the permit so endorsed to the local registrar of the district in which the interment took place. The third copy of the permit shall be returned to the office of issuance. After 1 year the local registrar may destroy any original or duplicate permit retained by the local registrar pursuant to this section.

103085. When human remains are transported from outside the state into a registration district in California for interment, the permit for disposition, issued in accordance with the law and health regulations of the place where the death occurred, shall be accepted by the local registrar of the district into which the human remains have been transported, as a basis upon which he or she shall issue a local permit, noting upon the face of the permit the fact that human remains were shipped in for interment and the place of death.

103090. This chapter does not prevent a funeral director from removing a body from the registration district where the death occurred or the body was found to another registration district in the same or another county in a funeral director's conveyance for the purpose of preparing the body for interment or shipment.

103095. A permit issued in one county or city is valid and sufficient in any county it specifies as the place of interment.

103100. If any cemetery is located partly in one registration district and partly in another, only one permit shall be required for interment and a permit authorizing interment in the cemetery shall entitle interment to be made within or without the district to which the permit is directed. The permit shall be returned to the registration district in which the interment is made irrespective of the district to which it is directed. The local registrar of the district in which the interment is made shall forthwith file the permit on presentation without charge.

